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1. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:

at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops in a spitting operation;

a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and

a generally planar shelf mounted for rocking motion between:

a first position for directly receiving and retaining the ejected ink from the printhead, and

a second position for transferring the received ink to the spittoon by spilling the received ink from the shelf into the spittoon.

2. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:

at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops in a spitting operation;

a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and

a temporary spittoon arranged to move between first and second positions, said temporary spittoon being arranged in the first position so that the ink drops are ejected onto a surface of said temporary spittoon, and said temporary spittoon being further arranged to transfer the ink to the spittoon when in the second position;

wherein the surface of the temporary spittoon is approximately 1 mm to 10 mm from the printhead when the temporary spittoon is in the first position.

4. (amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein:
the shelf is substantially horizontal when in the first position.

5. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:
at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops in a spitting operation;
a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and
a temporary spittoon arranged to move between first and second positions, said temporary spittoon being arranged in the first position so that the ink drops are ejected onto a surface of said temporary spittoon, and said temporary spittoon being further arranged to transfer the ink to the spittoon when in the second position;
wherein the temporary spittoon is mounted on a shuttle, said shuttle being arranged to move the temporary spittoon between the first and second positions.

6. (amended) A device according to claim 5, wherein:
the temporary spittoon is arranged to be oriented in a first orientation when in the first position and in a second orientation different from the first orientation when positioned in the second position, such that when positioned in the second position the temporary spittoon is arranged to transfer the ink from the spittoon surface by gravity.

7. (amended) A device according to claim 6, wherein:
the temporary spittoon is rotatably mounted to the shuttle and arranged to pivot relative to the shuttle between the first and second orientations.

8. (amended) A device according to claim 7, wherein:
the temporary spittoon is arranged to rotate relative to the shuttle under the action of one or more cam surfaces.

9. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:

at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops in a spitting operation;

a spittoon arranged to store said ejected ink;

a temporary spittoon arranged to move between first and second positions, said temporary spittoon being arranged in the first position so that the ink drops are ejected onto a surface of the temporary spittoon, and said temporary spittoon being further arranged to transfer the ink to the spittoon when in the second position; and wherein:

the surface of the temporary spittoon is substantially horizontal when the temporary spittoon is in the first position;

the temporary spittoon is mounted on a shuttle, the shuttle being arranged to move the temporary spittoon between the first and second positions; and

the temporary spittoon is arranged to be oriented in a first orientation when in the first position and in a second orientation different from the first orientation when positioned in the second position, such that when positioned in the second position the temporary spittoon is arranged to transfer the ink on the spittoon surface under gravity; and

the temporary spittoon comprises a flexible material fixedly mounted to the shuttle, the temporary spittoon being arranged to bend or deform between the first and second orientations.

14. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:

at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops in a spitting operation;

a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink;

a temporary spittoon arranged to move between first and second positions, said temporary spittoon being arranged in the first position so that the ink drops are ejected onto a surface of the temporary spittoon, and said temporary spittoon being further arranged to transfer the ink to the spittoon when in the second position;

wherein the surface of the temporary spittoon is substantially horizontal when the temporary spittoon is in the first position; and

wherein the temporary spittoon is mounted on a shuttle, said shuttle being arranged to move the temporary spittoon between the first and second positions; and

a printhead servicing element comprising a cap or a wiper arranged to be movable between a non-active position distant from the printhead and an active position adjacent to the printhead;

wherein the movement of the temporary spittoon is linked to that of the servicing element so that the temporary spittoon is arranged to be in the first position when the servicing element is in the non-active position and to be in the second position when the servicing element is in active position.

16. (amended) A device according to claim 5:
further comprising a plurality of pens;
wherein in the first position the temporary spittoon is arranged so that ink drops ejected in spitting operations by one or more of the plurality of pens are ejected onto a surface of the temporary spittoon.

18. (amended) A device according to claim 16, further comprising:
one or more scrapers arranged to remove ink from the temporary spittoon surface as the temporary spittoon moves between the first and second positions.

19. (amended) A device according to claim 5, wherein:
the device is arranged so that in the second position the temporary spittoon is located substantially in contact with the spittoon or ink stored therein, the temporary spittoon being adapted so that the ink on the temporary spittoon surface is able to flow from the temporary spittoon to the spittoon.

20. (amended) A device according to claim 5, wherein:
the temporary spittoon comprises a porous body adapted to allow the ink on the temporary spittoon surface to flow through the temporary spittoon to the spittoon.

21. (amended) A device according to claim 5, wherein:
the inkjet device is a printer.

22. (amended) An inkjet printhead servicing assembly comprising:

a spittoon arranged to store ink ejected by an ink-jet printhead in a spitting operation; and

a spitting shelf rockable between:

a first position for directly receiving ink drops ejected by the printhead in a spitting operation, and

a second position for pouring the received ink off the shelf into the spittoon.

23. (amended) An inkjet device comprising:

at least one print head arranged to eject ink drops in a spitting operation;

a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and

a temporary ink receiver arranged and powered to move between:

a first position in relatively closer proximity to a nozzle plate of the printhead, to intercept ink with minimal formation of aerosol; and

a second position relatively more distant from the nozzle plate to allow capping or wiping of the nozzle plate.

24. (amended) An inkjet printhead servicing assembly comprising:

a spitting surface;

a cap assembly;

a reciprocating shuttle arranged to move between first and second positions and to actuate the spitting surface and the cap assembly;

the servicing assembly being arranged so that:

when the shuttle is in the first position the cap assembly is located distant to a nozzle plate of the printhead and the spitting surface is located in close proximity to the nozzle plate so that ink ejected from the nozzle plate during a spitting routine is ejected onto the spitting surface; and

when the shuttle is in the second position the cap assembly substantially caps the nozzle plate and the spitting surface is located in a position such that the ink ejected onto the spitting surface is transferable under gravity to a permanent ink storage container.

25. (amended) A method of servicing an inkjet printhead with a servicing assembly; said servicing assembly comprising a spittoon arranged to store ink ejected by said inkjet printhead in a spitting operation, and a generally planar spitting surface; said method comprising the steps of:

locating the spitting surface in a first position relatively closer to the printhead and generally horizontal so that drops ejected by the inkjet printhead in a spitting operation are ejected onto the spitting surface and generally are retained thereon;

translating the spitting surface to a second position relatively more remote from the printhead, allowing clearance for printhead wiping or capping, and at the second position inclining the generally planar spitting surface to discharge the retained into the spittoon.

26. (amended) A method of servicing an inkjet printhead with a servicing assembly; said servicing assembly comprising a spittoon arranged to store ink ejected by said inkjet printhead in a spitting operation, and a spitting surface; said method comprising the steps of:

locating the spitting surface in a first position such that drops ejected by the inkjet printhead in a spitting operation are ejected onto the spitting surface;

moving the spitting surface to a second position such that the ejected drops may be transferred to the spittoon; and

capping or wiping the printhead when the spitting surface is in the second position.